

F, M, and Academic J Visa Processing and Expansion of Interview Waiver During COVID-19

The Department of State has waived, through December 31, 2021, the in-person interview requirement for F, M, and J visa applicants qualifying as secondary and university students, professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, or specialists ("academic J visa applicants"), subject to certain conditions.

You must meet these criteria:

- I have no refusals for a visa in any category.
- I have never been denied a visa or the Visa Waiver Program (ESTA).
- I am not a Chinese or Nigerian national.
- I am a resident or citizen/national of Australia.

Choose from Column A or Column B to determine if you qualify:

A. Previous U.S. visa holder (of any category)

- ☐ Applying for an F, M or Academic J Visa
- ☐ I have had my 10 fingerprints collected in a previous U.S. visa application.

B. Never had a U.S. visa before

- ☐ Applying for an F, M or Academic J Visa
- ☐ I am a citizen or national of a Visa Waiver Program country

Meeting the conditions above does not guarantee a visa, and the Consulate may still require an in-person interview.

When applying by mail, the below coversheet MUST be completed, and all required documents MUST be submitted.

Mail the required documents (preferably using an Express Post satchel for tracking purposes) to:

Melbourne and Sydney Consular district applications	Perth district applications
U.S. Consulate General Attn: Visas – F M J – [Travel Date] Level 6 / 553 St. Kilda Road Melbourne, VIC 3004	U.S. Consulate General Attn: Visas – F M J – [Travel Date] 4 th Floor / 16 St. George's Terrace Perth, WA 6000

This is the office that will be processing your mail-in application. It is suggested that you take a photo of the tracking number on the satchel for your records. The documents can be posted at the nearest [Express Post Box](#).

Our standard processing time requires a minimum of fifteen (15) business days from receipt of all the required documentation. If you prefer to have an interview with the consular officer due to urgent travel, however you are unable to schedule an interview date earlier than what's available online you may qualify to submit a request for an [emergency appointment](#).

- **Interview Waiver Confirmation Letter/Coversheet.**
- **Intended travel date:** _____
- **[Application fee receipt](#):** Also referred to as machine-readable visa (MRV) fee.
- **Current valid passport**
- **Old passport:** showing your previous U.S. visa if not in current passport.
- **[Form DS-160](#):** Nonimmigrant Visa Application confirmation page.
 - Each individual applying for a visa must have their-own DS-160 form, detailing a unique barcode.
 - Previously submitted forms cannot be reused.
- **[Photo](#):** U.S. passport sized photo. If incorrect, you will be directed to obtain a new photo.
- **[Self-Addressed Express Post Satchel \(Plastic Envelope\) from Australia Post](#):** This is for the return of your passport(s) and visa(s). Paper envelopes from Australia Post, and envelopes/satchels from courier services/companies other than Australia Post will not be accepted. It is suggested that you take a photo of the tracking number on the satchel for your records.
- **[Visa issuance fees](#):** (different from the application MRV fee and SEVIS fee). This fee will only be processed if the visa is approved by the Consular Officer.
NOT ACCEPTED - CASH, US Dollar checks, Personal or Company checks

- [Acceptable forms of payment](#): EXACT amount made payable to the "U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL"
- [Australian passport holders](#): Please determine if an issuance fee is applicable to you.
- [Other nationalities](#): Please determine if an issuance fee is applicable to you.
- **Other Documents Submitted:** [DO NOT submit original documents](#) unless indicated as they will NOT be returned.

<input type="checkbox"/> DS-2019 (original only)	<input type="checkbox"/> I-20	<input type="checkbox"/> SEVIS Fee Receipt
--	-------------------------------	--

Applicant Signature _____

Note: You must submit this cover sheet along with the required documents.